



# **BULLETIN**

*from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

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## **BABBITT HONORS CLAUDE LARD WITH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

At a December ceremony in Washington, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt recognized longtime U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee Claude Lard of Victoria, Texas, with the Department's Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to fish and wildlife conservation.

The award is the highest given by the Department to career civil servants and recognizes outstanding achievement in their careers.

Lard spent 50 years with the Service working all major areas of refuge management, land acquisition, and a wide variety of significant realty matters. He was a significant, innovative force in the preservation, acquisition, and management of vital waterfowl habitat throughout the Gulf of Mexico region, the Atlantic coast, and riparian areas along the Colorado River.

Lard also was involved in the acquisition of thousands of acres of land for the National Wildlife Refuge System and initiated and coordinated several multi-agency hazardous material cleanup projects on refuges along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Throughout his career, he was at the forefront of the Service's oil and gas management program. He was well respected by landowners and the oil industry and developed most of the current oil and gas management plans for refuges in Texas and Oklahoma.

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